



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, B74 2NH, 0121 250 5400, www.bvgs.co.uk

DGR/sw

09 February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Whole School Review Day

It was really good to welcome parents and students to discuss progress with their Form Tutors today. Lots of good things to celebrate and plenty of areas for improvement!

Careers and Jobs Fair

A huge thank you to **Brian Davies, Pauline Knowles, Joe Williams** and all the staff for organising an outstanding Careers and Jobs Fair today. We had 53 different exhibitors in our Sports Hall including: **Creative College, ADI Limited, Align Architecture, Amey, Ansons, Aston University, BCU, Bell Lax Solicitors, College Prospects of America, Crowe Clark Whitehall, EEF, EY, Honeybourne, Interserve, Irwin Mitchell, Ishida, Jessops Brothers, Keele University, Keltbray, Leicester University, Medical Mavericks, Moor Hall Hotel, NatWest, Newman University, Nottingham Trent, PlanIT Global, SERTEC, Tamworth Steel, HMRC, MoD, Royal Navy, UCFB, University of Cardiff, University of Law, First Point USA, Western Power Distribution, Whitbread Group, WSP, Keepmoat Now Engie, Nekko Capital, Three 60 Recruitment, CV Assistant, NCS, KPMG, Bilfinger GVA.**

We had an excellent opportunity for students, courtesy of **Paul Anderson**, Managing Director of Deutsche Bank: the Pandemonium Experience. We also had excellent seminars from key staff from the following: **Babcock, Ishida, Align, Amey, Highways Agency, Shaylor, Kellbray, Leicester Tigers, BVGS, British Airways, Arkmedia, St James, QBE Insurance, PWC, Blackrock, Crow Clark Whitehall, Mercia Technologies, Dentistry, Radiography, GP, Surgeon, Speech Therapy, WOW Zone, IBM, WAA Chosen, Google, Toucan Tech, Bay Recruitments, Brown Jacobson, Gowling, Irwin Mitchell, X2 Furniture, Atkin Chambers.**

None of today's event would have happened without the support of so many parents, and our corporate partners, generously giving up their time. Thank you.

This is the first time we have held our Review Day and Careers and Jobs Fair on the same day. It went well, but we know there are lots of things we can do even better next year. Thank you for your support.



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The Governors of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School are a registered charity (No: 517907)



Meeting with local residents

We had a very constructive meeting with local residents on Tuesday 6 February. Please note that from now on, for all away fixtures, all Attain coaches will be picking up from Tamworth Road, not Boswell Road. This means that students will be walked down a pedestrian walkway from Boswell Road, via Radbourn Drive to Tamworth Road.

Furthermore, there was some concern expressed by local residents regarding discourtesy by a very small minority of our parents. This includes rudeness to residents and discourteous parking. Obviously, this is not acceptable. Please support us in being a courteous and considerate community.

Mandarin Excellence Programme

We are delighted to announce that Bishop Vesey's Grammar School has been selected to participate in the Mandarin Excellence Programme - an intensive language programme funded by the Department for Education. This nationwide programme offers students an unprecedented opportunity in terms of language provision and aims to see 5,000 school pupils in England on track towards fluency in Mandarin Chinese by 2020.

In being the most widely spoken language in the World, Mandarin Chinese is recognised as one of the most important languages for the UK's future. The programme therefore provides a fantastic opportunity for students to acquire vital language skills at an early stage, something essential for work and for life in an increasingly connected world.

Students on the programme will study 8 hours of Mandarin Chinese every week - including 4 hours of classroom taught lessons with selected groups of pupils beginning from Year 7.

We will be at the forefront of delivering the programme - with support from the UCL, Institute of Education and the British Council.

Internet Safety

At Bishop Vesey's, we take internet safety and digital responsibility seriously. To mark Internet Safety Day on 6 February, Years 7-11 had a presentation delivered to them either in afternoon registration or assembly on this year's theme of Create, Connect and Share Respect highlighting the importance of digital well-being as well as their role and responsibilities online. Additionally, Information and advice on protecting yourself on line is incorporated into Citizenship lessons in Key Stages Three and Four.

The vast majority of social media platforms have a minimum age restriction of 13 so please be aware that students in Year 7 and some of Year 8 should not be on Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat or Instagram. For top tips for parents and carers please visit

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2018/safer-internet-day-2018-top-tips-parents-and-carers>

Art Trip to Liverpool Galleries

We had an excellent trip for Year 10-13 artists. We visited two galleries : The Tate and The Walker Gallery. Students saw a vast array of artwork from modern contemporary works to Green sculpture. There was an excellent talk at the Tate on 'modern art and understanding the value of art'



Art Student Exhibits at the Argentea Gallery

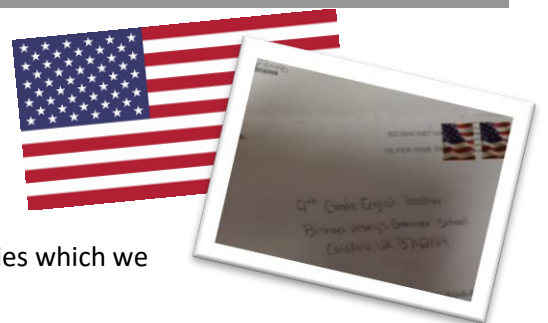
Maddy (Madeleine Muir, U6CW), an A level Art student has been selected to exhibit her work at an exhibition at the Argentea Gallery in St Paul's Square, Birmingham. The gallery owner was so impressed by Maddy's talent and vision that she invited her to exhibit her work. This will feature alongside an under-graduate art student which highlights exactly how well she is doing! An excellent independent review of Maddy's work can be read [here](#)



The exhibition is on until 10 February. Opening times are 12pm -6pm Tuesday- Saturday. Please do support Maddy and visit her exhibition

A Letter from America

Mrs Haywood, Head of English received a letter this week from Blackstone, VA, – Brianna, age 14 had been given a map of the UK by her teacher and asked to select a town by closing her eyes and pointing; she landed on 'Coldfield'! Informing us about life as a 9th grader in Blackstone, Brianna then requested for replies so she can hear about life at BVGS. This week Y9 have been writing replies which we will send to NHS (Brianna's school) in the USA.



KS3 Writing Competition

A brilliantly creative piece, written from the perspective of a snowman, by **Fahad Waseem**, 8B, won our KS3 writing competition. Superbly crafted, **Miss Langham** and **Mrs Haywood** were incredibly impressed with the narrative style. Well done Fahad. If you want the chance of winning, the deadline for our newspaper article competition is Tuesday 13 February.

Jerrard 100

Our school has two former students who won the Victoria Cross for bravery in World War One. On 16 March 2018, we honour Alan Jerrard VC with a special service on that afternoon, period 5, in Big School for Sixth Formers. The 'service' will be led by students and include history and poetry readings and music. Our guests of honour will include Andrew Mitchell MP, the Air Vice Marshal and the University of Birmingham Air Cadets, of which Jerrard was a member.



Six Nations Rugby Evening

BVGS hosted their inaugural Six Nations dinner in Big School on Friday 2 February. Guest of honour was Phil Bennett, ex-Wales and Barbarians rugby legend. The event raised a significant amount of money which will go towards supporting the school and improving the experiences of students. Thank you to organiser **Brian Davies** and compere for the evening **Karl Ward (OV)**.

<https://alumni.bvgs.co.uk/news/events/122/Former-rugby-legend-joins-BVGS-for-special-Six-Nations-dinner>



Sporting Update

1st team drew 2-2 in the National Cup vs Solihull. An equalising goal from Harry West in the last few seconds and then Nathan Lawrence was the hero saving three Solihull flicks which sees the team progress into round 3. The 1st team also drew 2-2 with Princethorpe College.

The U'14's rounded off a fantastic week after qualifying for the last 8 of the Regional finals at Denstone last week where they drew 1-1 with a very strong Bromsgrove team, won 6-0 vs Shrewsbury school and won 2-0 in a winner takes all against hosts Denstone College. On Tuesday they lifted the County Cup beating King Edwards Birmingham 3-2 in a very tight contest.

U'15 'a' team are also through to the last 16 of the National Cup after defeating KES Birmingham 2-0 with a very solid display.

The U'12's and U'13's have a very busy schedule over the next few weeks which will certainly test them.

For further information about all things sport at BVGS, including rugby fixtures and results please visit www.bvgs.sport.co.uk

Macbeth Poster Competition

The competition was won by **Matthew Merrill**. The poster will be added to next week's newsletter.

PA Curry Night

Sadly, the PA Curry Night due to take place on 15 February, has been postponed until a later date. The PA apologise for any inconvenience.

Good luck to our debaters

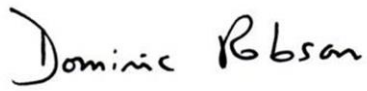
Angus Carter and **Ali Lakhanpal** are performing in the Cambridge Union Debate tomorrow and students from Year 8 - 10 are competing against KE, Aston on Monday. On Thursday 1 March we are hosting the Sutton Coldfield Parliamentary Debating Competition. Buffet will be served at 6:00pm and the debate last from 6:30pm - 9:30 pm. The event chaired by Andrew Mitchell MP is free to all families and will have a host of inspiring Sixth Form debating talent on show from across Sutton Coldfield. If you would like to book seats for your family please let Mrs Weblin know on s.weblin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk.

Vote Mustafaa Ahmed - Y8

Mustafaa Ahmed from Year 8, is one of 14 candidates standing across Birmingham for the UK Youth Parliament Elections 2018. He is the only Vesey candidate! Voting will take place in form time on Tuesday. Mustafaa is standing on a positive platform and is keen to get students to vote for him. More information will be available on Monday morning.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely



Dominic Robson
Headteacher



John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Art Star of the Week



Brandon Nayer 11R. Brandon has pushed his ability in pencil tone, to develop exceptional depth to his work. He has transformed this flower image to show detail and form.

Book of the Week

BOOK OF THE WEEK 

In school on Friday 2nd March



BODYGUARD
HOSTAGE

CHRIS BRADFORD

'BREATHTAKING ACTION' EDIN COLFER

Bodyguard: Hostage

Recruited into the ranks of a covert young bodyguard squad, 14-year-old Connor Reeves embarks on a rigorous close protection course. Training in surveillance, anti-ambush exercises, hostage survival and unarmed combat, he's put through his paces and wonders if he will actually survive the course.

"It is gripping from start to end and it is very exciting. Best book I have ever read!"

Harry Downen 8R

Quote of the Week: **The time is always right to do what is right**
Martin Luther King Jr

Letters sent this week: [Quiz Night Flyer](#)
[Lost Property](#)

Dates for your Diary

Spring Term 2018

Saturday 10 February	Cambridge University Union Debating Competition at Solihull School
Monday 12 February	Guest Speaker from University of Sheffield
Monday 12 February	West Midlands Music Mark Big Sing Lower school and Upper School Choirs. Symphony Hall
Thursday 15 February	Ski trip to Canada departs
Friday 16 February	Break up for half term
Thursday 22 February	Ski trip returns
Monday 26 February	Spring term recommences
Thursday 1 March	NFER sample tests for Year 11 (as required by DFE)
Thursday 1 March	Saxophone Ensemble and Clarinet Ensemble as part of the S4E Chamber music festival Concerts Performing at St Michael's Church, Boldmere
Thursday 1 March	World Book Day - non uniform day raising money for Book Aid
Thursday 1 March	Sixth Form trip leaves for Berlin
Thursday 1 March	Sixth Form Parliamentary Debating Competition chaired by Andrew Mitchell MP. Refreshments from 18:00, competition in Big School until 22:00
Friday 2 March	Chris Bradford author visit
Saturday 3 March	World Challenge training on Cannock Chase
Tuesday 6 March	Funky Bishops and Clarinet Ensemble Music For Youth Birmingham Regional Festival, CBSO Centre.
Tuesday 6 March	HE Evening
Wednesday 7 March	New Year 7 Welcome Morning
Wednesday 7 March	Ladies Lunch (Ladies Lunch - Bishop Vesey's Grammar School)
Monday 12 March	PA Meeting - The Hive
Tuesday 13 March	Senior Soloists' Concert 19:00 - 21:00
Friday 16 March	Jerrard 100 celebrations. Lunch OBS followed by service, Big School
Friday 16 March	PA Quiz Night - Big School
Saturday 17 March	Rugby Sevens Tournament
Thursday 22 March	Senior Sports Dinner at BVGS
Friday 23 March	
Saturday 24 March	Drama production of Macbeth (£9 adults, £5 concessions/students)
Monday 26 March	Successful candidate afternoon

Wednesday 28 March	Sri Lanka Cricket Tour leaves
Thursday 29 March	Training Day
Thursday 29 March	Break up for Easter
Wednesday 28 March	Break up at 15:25
Thursday 29 March	Training Day

Summer Term 2018

Monday 16 April	Summer Term commences
Tuesday 24 April	Spring Concert
Friday 27 April	Year 7 and 8 Disco BVGS
Monday 7 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 25 May	Break up for half term
Monday 4 June	Summer term recommences
Friday 22 June	Year 7 and 8 Disco Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls
Friday 13 July	BVGS PAC Ball at Moor Hall

Parents' Evenings 2018:

Wednesday 7 March -	Year 9	16:00 - 19:00
Thursday 15 March -	Year 10	16:00 - 19:00
Tuesday 27 March -	Year 8	16:00 - 19:00
Thursday 19 April -	Year 7	16:00 - 19:00

Term Dates can be found [here](#) on our website